

## **Gist of the First Meeting of Curriculum Development Council Committee on Gifted Education (2009 – 2010)**

**Date:** 6 November 2009  
**Time:** 2:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.  
**Venue:** E303, 3/F, East Block, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre

### **Notes:**

#### **1. To welcome committee members**

The Vice-Chairperson welcomed and introduced all committee members and invited their collaboration and advice for the betterment of Gifted Education in Hong Kong.

#### **2 To introduce the CDC structure, terms of reference and roles and functions of committee members by the Vice-Chairperson**

With reference to the CDCC Handbook, the Secretary explained the structure and composition of CDC and CDCC, items of confidentiality, declaration of interests and means of communication.

#### **3 To elect Chairperson**

Members eligible for the post of Chairperson should be those specified in Para. 3 (a) (i) – (v) in the CDCC Handbook. The total number of eligible votes was 15.

Ms. KWOK, Yin-mei was elected the Chairperson with the highest number of votes (9 out of 15).

#### **4 To nominate co-opted members**

Two co-opted members were suggested by the Vice Chairperson to be nominated and five candidates were put forth for members' consideration.

Each committee member had 2 votes.

Dr. Anna HUI of HK City University and Mrs HO WU Yin-ching from HK Baptist University were elected co-opted members.

#### **5 To confirm the minutes of the last meeting and matters arising by the Chairperson**

The minutes of the last meeting was adopted with minor amendments suggested by Mrs Yu on the section about the 11<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness (APCG) held in Sydney in July 2010 and the possibility of EDB hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> APCG.

#### **6 To brief members the working relationships between EDB and the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education and to introduce the framework of the joint strategy paper**

The Vice Chairperson briefed all members on the working relation and division of labour between the EDB and the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education as follows:

The GE Section is under CDI of EDB and the HKAGE has its own Board of Directors.

In general, the GE Section is responsible for the provision at Levels 1 & 2(school-based) while The HKAGE will focus on the provision at Level 3 (off-site support) and research on key gifted issues.

For provision to students, GE Section will develop web-based courses and support the development of local competitions with related training as well as sending delegates to international competitions. The HKAGE will provide off-site gifted programmes, organise Olympiad related training programmes for students and develop e-learning platform.

For services to teachers, the GE Section will be responsible for capacity building of teachers in specific domains, thematic talks/workshops/courses within KLA contexts, tailor-made professional development programmes, on-site staff development and consultation to schools. The HKAGE will focus on awareness building and generic capacity building of teachers, provide on-line facilities for teachers and co-host Annual GE Conference with EDB.

For Parent Support services, the GE Section will attend to general enquiries regarding GE policies and school provisions and work in partnership with the HKAGE in delivering parent talks on a need basis. The HKAGE attend to enquiries regarding its programmes and services, organise programmes/workshops/talks, produce web-based information for parents and facilitate parent support groups.

Other provision includes the production of learning and teaching resources by GE Section and Teacher/parent magazines by the HKAGE.

The GE Section will also carry out pilot/partnership projects with schools while the HKAGE will collaborate with or commission the tertiary institutes to carry out research and development projects on GE.

The GE Section and the HKAGE were working on a joint paper to explain to the public the current development of gifted education. The Vice-Chairperson deemed it not appropriate to disclose the details of the working paper but highlighted some key features and point for members' information.

Regarding this Joint Strategy paper, members expressed the following feedback as follows:

The roles and relationship of GE Section and the HKAGE should be further clarified.

The target students, parents and teachers served by either party should be identified clearly. The GE Section should focus on Level 1 & 2 and concentrate on developing teaching packages for schools while the HKAGE should focus on serving the top 0.1% exceptionally gifted students.

Some strategic aims sounded to be too far-reaching and unrealistic.

In terms of levels of services, the percentage for different targets was not appropriately stated and needed further refinement.

The HKAGE should make good use of its web site to act as the GE portal in HK to facilitate the end users.

The existing Primary One Admission Policy should be reviewed to cater for those advanced learners at pre-primary level.

Reply was given to members that more specific information would be put down on the Joint Strategy Paper before it was finalized and a simplified version of the Paper would be published for the general public.

**7 To report on the progress of the ad hoc committee on the development of Guideline on School-based Gifted development 2009**

CDO(GE)<sup>1</sup> reported that favourable progress had been made in revising the “guidelines on school-based gifted development programmes”.

More classroom-based, KLA-oriented information would be included in the revised version making it more practical to frontline teachers.

It was expected that the Guideline could be submitted to CDCC for comments and endorsement in July 2010 and the endorsed Guideline could be submitted to CDC for endorsement in Nov 2010.

**8 To introduce the services of the HKAGE by the Associate Director(SPS) of the HKAGE**

In view of the fact that most of the members were new to the Committee, arrangement was made for the AD (SPS) of the HKAGE to introduce in details the scope of service provided by the HKAGE.

The AD (SPS) also briefed members on the organisation structure, the mode of operation and fee charging policy of the HKAGE. Besides, he updated members of the latest provision and services as well as the achievement of the HKAGE so far.

**9 To report on the latest development of the programmes at all levels**

The Secretary, SCDOGE)<sup>2</sup>, updated all members of the latest development of programmes at all levels provided by the Gifted Education Section with reference to tabled summary.

**10 Any other business**

Members expressed concerns over the support and resources for the development of school-based provision at individual KLAs context. They urged for sufficient training opportunities for enhancing the knowledge and skills of teachers in the implementation of the school-based programmes.

The Chairperson assured members that numerous professional development opportunities were currently available for teachers and considerable number of teachers had been trained. Nevertheless, more professional development programmes were still in need.

The Vice Chairperson added that the EDB did not aim at implementing gifted education in all primary and secondary schools.

Schools were encouraged and supported to provide school-based gifted programmes by building on their strengths.

Guidelines on catering for individual difference/ learner diversity had been compiled in the preparation for the NSS.

A wide range of references could be found from the new Guideline on GE from identification to implementation and evaluation in specific KLA context.

Members also expressed the views that there were not enough GE services for primary school students and parents. There was not a proper channel for delivering the information of the HKAGE's service to primary schools.

The Chairperson suggested the HKAGE to exercise more effort to promote their services to a wider context. It was also suggested a copy of the relevant circular memorandum on GE services by both GE Section and HKAGE to be provided to CDCC members for information.

The AD of the HKAGE replied different means (circular memorandum, letters, newsletters, pamphlets, posters and advertisements) and channels (public libraries, youth centers, HKAGE's website etc.) had been exploited to deliver information to all schools.

Members also enquired if the HKAGE had sufficient manpower and resources to deliver the pledged services.

The AD of the HKAGE replied that the number of staff and programmes provided would be doubled when the HKAGE was in full strength. At the moment most of the student programmes were commissioned to and run by tertiary institutions and NGOs.

Members also enquired the provision for those gifted in arts and sports.

The Vice Chairperson replied that in order not to duplicate the effort while resources were limited, the EDB would focus on provision apart from those being provided by the Academy for Performing Arts, the HK Sports Institute or other programmes under LCSD.

However, members suggested that the HKAGE should, in the medium term, provide training for those students who had not reached the top squad or professional level but had already excelled in local open competitions at school or regional levels.

The Vice Chairperson concluded that ideally services should be provided to students from kindergarten to senior secondary if resources were available. Even though the HKAGE had pledged in the LegCo paper, to cater for those aged 10-18, it was still a new organization. While the HKAGE could not cater for those in primary level, the GE Section would fill the service.

It was expected that the HKAGE could provide more programmes when it was eventually settled in its own campus.

Details of the 11<sup>th</sup> APCG and the progress of bidding for hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> APCG were also provided. Saudi Arabia had expressed their interest to bid for 2012 APCG while the Mainland was interested too, but would give way to HK if HK would like to bid.

The Vice Chairperson indicated that with such time constraints and so many imponderables ahead, HK was unlikely to bid for 2012 while the Conference in 2014c would be explored.

Mrs Yu shared with members some papers from the Creativity Conference in Mainland. She explained the paper detailing the quality of teachers in gifted education and a teacher development

framework put forth by Prof Wu Wu-tien of Taiwan.

The Vice Chairperson echoed that EDB and HKAGE were contemplating to adopt or develop a teacher development framework which was similar to what Prof Wu proposed.

The next meeting proposed by the Secretary: late January or early February 2010

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.